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The Hilltop 11-19-2008

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THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 92, NO. 61

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Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Wednesday's Notebook

LIFE & STYLE

UNDERGROUND ARTIST MURS IS SET TO HIT MAINSTREAM THIS MONTH. READ ABOUT THIS SEMI-NEW ARTIST.

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NATION & WORLD

BLACKS HAVE FOUGHT FOR OVER 100 YEARS TO TAKE HIGH GOVERNMENT POSITIONS. FIND OUT HOW.

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EDITORIALS & PERSPECTIVES

OBAMA PLANS TO QUICKLY AND EFFICIENTLY CHOOSE THE MEMBERS OF HIS CABINET. FIND OUT WHO HE MAY SELECT.

PAGE 9

Nursing Faculty, Students Meet to Resolve Issues

BY JESSICA LEWIS
Staff Writer

Twenty-four hours after the College of Nursing students took to the streets with picket signs and a list of demands, meetings are being held to rectify the problems at stake.

Both the dean of the College of Pharmacy, Nursing and Allied Health Sciences (CPNAHS) and Howard University President Sidney Ribeau, met with students to work towards a resolution for

their outcries for a better education and a responsive administration.

Tuesday evening, approximately 50 nursing students marched down Sixth Street to end their silence about problems they were facing with their educational curriculum.

In response, the school held a town hall meeting on Wednesday evening with CPNAHS Dean Beatrice Adderley-Kelly who came prepared to deal with the concerns.

Wednesday evening also saw a

meeting with Ribeau and Howard University Student Association (HUSA) officials aimed at resolving student issues.

According to HUSA Vice President Kellen Moore, the meeting with Ribeau tackled the list of demands presented by the nursing students at Tuesday's protest.

Although not all of the demands on the list — such as the ineffective teaching methods of professors — could be handled by the administration, Moore said he feels confident that they have begun to pave the way for reasonable solutions.

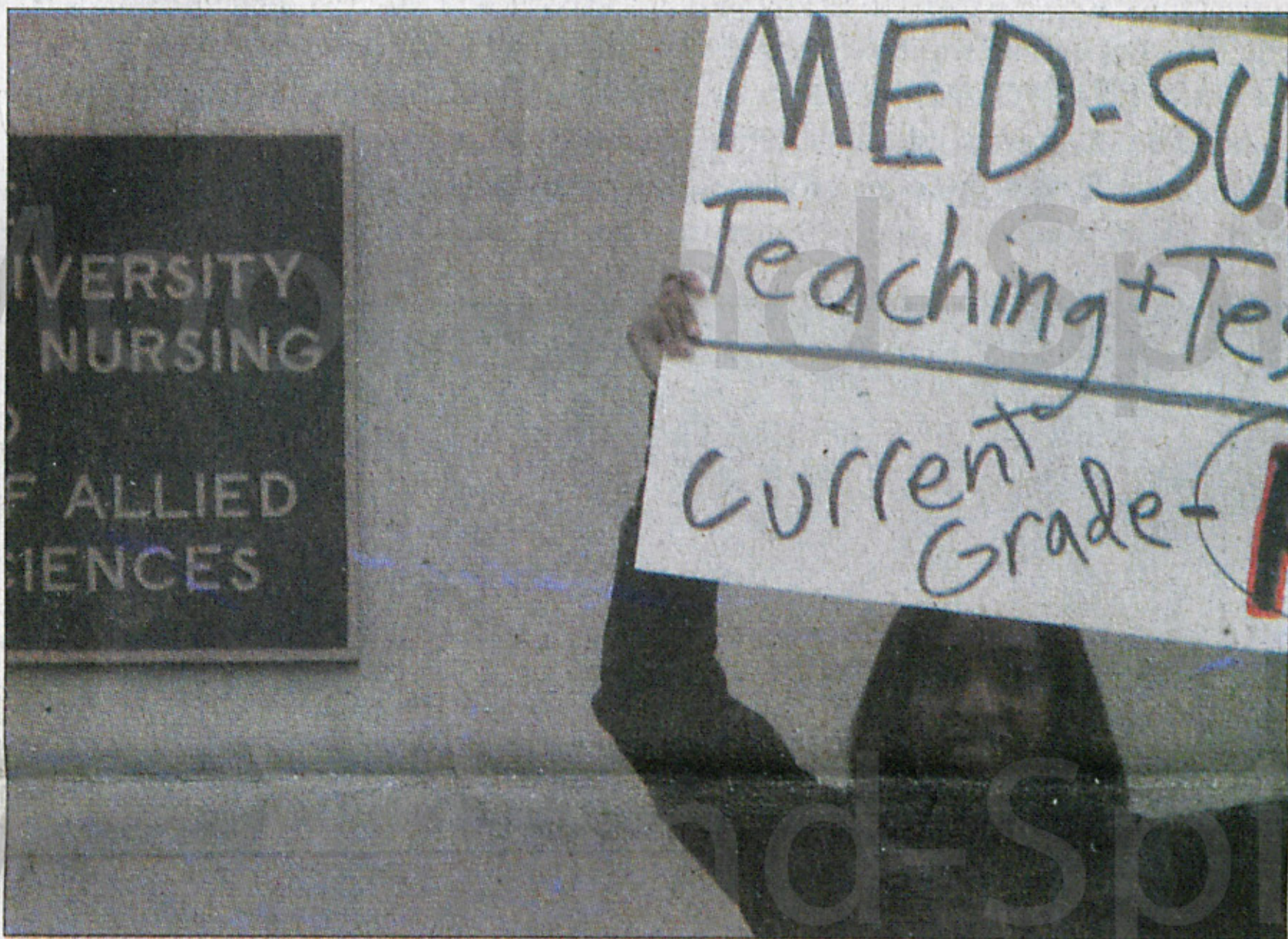
In addition, the meeting worked towards prioritizing the students' concerns.

At the town hall meeting, students and administration participated in an open dialogue.

HUSA General Assembly Vice-Chair Corey Briscoe, who attended the protest as well as the meeting with Ribeau and the town hall, felt the meetings were necessary to resolving the issues.

"It is now time for the college's administration, faculty and students to work together to ensure the success of the program," Briscoe said, "for the outcome depends on everyone meeting in the middle and upholding their responsibilities."

According to Briscoe, many students were frustrated to the point of tears at the town hall meeting, but their frustrations were heard by Adderley-Kelly.



Jazelle Hunt-Staff Photographer

The College of Pharmacy, Nursing and Allied Health Sciences held a town hall meeting to share their problems with the university and offer solutions.



Pete Souza-Chicago Tribune

It is speculated that Eric H. Holder Jr. is being considered to be Obama's next U.S. Attorney General. If appointed he will be the first black man to hold this position.

First Black Attorney General Prospected

BY OMARI EVANS
Staff Writer

Information leaked Tuesday that President-elect Obama wants Eric H. Holder Jr. to become the next U.S. attorney general. If sworn in, Holder will be the first black man to be the head of the U.S. Justice Department.

"No one has been offered the job as attorney general," said Obama's transition spokeswoman, Stephanie Cutter, in a statement made yesterday.

However, according to NBC, Holder was offered the job under certain conditions and accept last week.

Eric Holder, 57, graduated from Columbia University with a J.D. in 1976. By 1993, he was the U.S. Attorney for D.C. and became Deputy U.S. attorney general under President Clinton in 1997. After his time in the U.S. Justice Department, Holder worked as a partner for the private law firm of Covington & Burling in 2003. He then co-chaired Obama's presidential campaign as a senior legal advisor and served on the vice presidential selection committee.

In order for Holder to become the attorney general, he still has to go through the entire vetting process, by the Obama transition team and must be confirmed by the Senate. This must happen before the Obama team makes any public announcements.

As U.S. attorney general, Holder

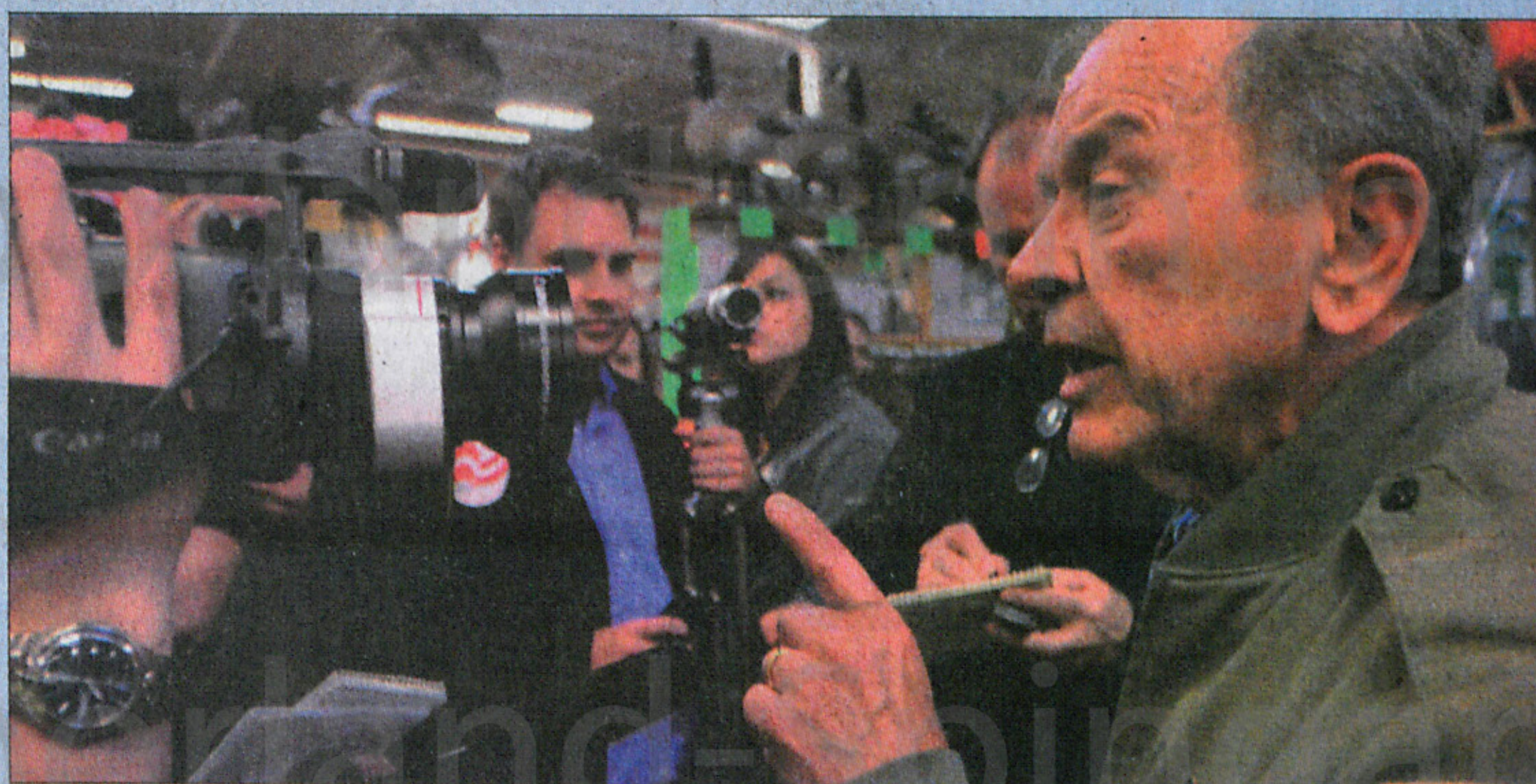
will oversee the Justice Department, which will have to represent the United States in legal matters and offer advice and opinions of the president and other members of the executive branch, when asked. The attorney general must also represent the government before the Supreme Court in high-level cases.

Holder and Obama first met in 2004 during a dinner hosted by Ann Walker aide under President Clinton. Since then, the two have become close friends.

"I think we share a worldview," Holder once said of Obama. "[Obama] is not defined by his race. He's proud of it, cognizant of the pernicious effect that race has had in our history but not defined by it."

As a former member of the Clinton Administration, some believe Holder has the potential to represent Obama's message of change or to embody a nostalgic regurgitation of the Clinton Era.

"[Holder] represents change," said sophomore political science and English double major Corey Briscoe, "But in that change we have to be conscious that 'if it ain't broke don't fix it.' I think that he is a new person for a new era that will hopefully bring us a new ideal that will drastically transform our justice system that has been unwaveringly biased towards African Americans."



Marc Lester - Anchorage Daily News (MCT)

Senator Loses Election

Yesterday, Sen. Ted Stevens's (R-Alaska) celebrated his 85th birthday — It was also the day he lost his re-election bid into the U.S. Senate.

Anchorage Mayor Mark Begich, a Democrat, will be taking the incumbent's seat.

Stevens has been a Senator for six terms, 40 years of service. In October, Stevens was convicted on seven federal felony counts, due to illegal gifts he received while in office. Still, he ran for re-election and almost won. On election night, he was in the lead, but on Nov. 12, about 60,000 absentee ballots and mail-in ballots were counted and wiped away the lead. However, a recount is expected to occur within the next two weeks.

- Omari Evans, Staff Writer

Students With Strict Guardians Manage Freedom, Responsibility

BY KIRSTEN MCRAE
Contributing Writer

It's one of the most looked-forward-to things about going away to college: the freedom to do what you want, when you want to do it.

For some students, college is their first opportunity to make their own rules. However, for students with strict parents, part of becoming a responsible student means finding a balance between the strict rules they grew up with and their newfound freedom.

"College-aged individuals need to be able to explore all dimensions in terms of experiencing their environment — social, financial, food [and] transportation," J. Vincent Davis, Ph.D., said. "[Parents] can limit their children's growth oppor-

tunities and potential when they're too overbearing."

Davis works as the senior therapist on staff at the Howard University counseling service, and feels acting out in dangerous ways is rare amongst Howard students.

"Typically, acting out behaviors are limited or contained and very rarely manifest themselves in such a way that psycho-therapeutic counseling is necessary," he said.

Many students who did not grow up with strict parents expect their peers, who grew up with several restrictions, to act out once moving away from home to attend college.

"I feel like if you've been trapped under a rock for so long, you'd want to see what you've missed during the 18 years of your life that you couldn't do

anything," said Stacy-Ann Ellis, a freshman print journalism major.

Also, some students who grew up with strict parents feel they were subjected to rules that some students may find unusual. "We had rules like no TV during the week, no video games during the week," said Micah Campbell, a sophomore psychology major. "They had to check our homework every night, and we had to read at least a book a month over the summer."

Elizabeth Hodge, a freshman biochemistry major, said being a pastor's daughter led her to deal with more restrictions than her peers as well.

"I couldn't be outside past 7 [p.m.] or join many organizations unless they were church-affiliated," Hodge said, "and I couldn't date."

According to Davis, parents who

set several rules in place for their children only want the very best for them, but these actions may indicate insecurities that parents may harbor.

"Being overbearing stems from an inability to trust themselves and leads to an inability to trust their children," Davis said. "They may remember how they were and that may worry them."

Both Campbell and Hodge said they didn't have a problem with managing their transitions from home life to college life, however. "I wasn't rebellious because of the rules because I understood they were there to guide me," Campbell said.

Hodge said she was able to handle the freedom of college better than she originally thought should would.

"I party now, but I don't do all the stuff you see in movies," she said. "I don't

think kids with strict parents are justified in acting out because it's about common sense. If your parents' rules were really crazy then, fine, be a little more free, but don't do things that go against common sense."

Hodge said she is a little louder and bolder at school, but still maintains the values and rules that were established at home. "I don't smoke, I don't drink," Hodge said. "I don't get into crazy things."

Some students with overbearing parents have found they are more grateful for the rules their parents had in place.

"I had overbearing parents, but I was actually appreciative of them," said Charles Canady, a sophomore audio production major. "All the things they kept me from doing and pushed me to do got me to where I am today."

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Students Forced to Transfer Due To Lack of Housing on Campus

BY AISHA JOHNSON
Contributing Writer

The lack of on campus housing has long been a problem, and this year is no different. It has caused some students to quit school and return home. Others have simply not returned after their housing status changed and they couldn't regain a room on campus.

With the fall semester more than half over, many students are still struggling to find on-campus housing. The university has the capacity to house only so many of the approximately 10,000 students who attend annually.

According to Residence Life, which oversees student housing, approximately 300 students were placed on the Howard University Residence Life waiting list for

housing over the summer, and those who still find themselves on this list are competing for rooms against incoming students applying for housing next semester. Therefore, many students were forced to move off-campus.

Sophomore Maurice Felder said he was placed on the waiting list because he didn't pay the \$200 housing deposit on time that would have reserved him a room.

"I eventually gave up and I'm now rooming in a friend's apartment," he said.

But Charles J. Gibbs, Dean of Residence Life, said that even at this late date, it is still possible for students to get rooms due to certain circumstances.

"It is not uncommon for housing to become available," Gibbs said. "Manag-

ing housing is a transitional process that occurs daily."

One student's good news of attaining housing, usually comes at the expense of another who is losing it, Gibbs explained.

"A student checks out for financial reasons," he said. "A student is purged from the university. A student has his or her housing terminated for a violation of the Residence Hall policy or the student code of conduct, or a student may withdraw for personal reasons."

As tight as housing is, there are empty rooms and suites in various dorms, Residence Life said, but they are not available for students.

Sophomore Brittany Butler, a residence assistant for the Bethune Annex, said those empty rooms and suites are considered "offline" because maintenance repairs need to be done before they can be leased to students.

"Those rooms can't have students in them," said Butler, who is a double major in biology and sociology. "So, we don't consider them vacancies."

Karen Osborne is one of those students who had to leave Howard after her housing status changed. Osborn, 19, tore her ACL in a soccer game near the end of the last academic year. Because she could no longer play for the Howard University soccer team, she lost her scholarship along with her room assignment in Cook Hall. She tried to return for this school year.

"After calling residence life for almost six hours, I was placed on the waiting list," said Osborne, a former sophomore nursing major. "My family couldn't afford a place for me to stay off campus. So, I had to transfer to a school back home."



Travis White - Photo Editor

The School of Communications MC battle showcased the talent of on-campus rappers.

MC Battle Shows Student Talent

BY ASHLEE GERALD
Contributing Writer

Last night, the John H. Johnson School of Communications Student Council held an MC Heavyweight Rap battle in the Blackburn Center. Students were allowed to participate and showcase their lyrical talents for a prize of \$100. "The School of Communications Student Council wants to promote the arts and rap is a form of art and communication," said sophomore Public Relations major and School of Communications Student Council member Brittney Oliver.

The event was organized by Lauren Gaspard, a junior Public Relations major.

"We want everybody to have an opportunity to participate so if anybody who does not sign up wants to battle they are free to do so," Gaspard said.

The small crowd slowly but surely began to swell and grow as students of every classification and major began to

filter in. The group provided the environment with an enlivened and enthusiastic atmosphere.

The good sportsmanship illustrated during the first round seemed to promise a good clean battle for the night, but when contestants were delivered the "no profanity and or cursing rule" things seemed to get a little out of control, and that was just from the crowd.

Once they were told they could not curse it seemed to make it harder for the contestants to stop, resulting in a disqualification from the competition.

"It's not fair that they tell us not to curse, it takes away from the flow," said battle participant and freshman marketing major Jerez Giles.

James Fawole was the winner last year and managed to grab the MC Heavyweight Battle competition this year, giving him two consecutive titles.

"I enjoy the win," said Fawole about his victory. "But I love the fact that the students and the school are still supporting Hip Hop on campus."



File Photo

Although the end of the fall semester is approaching, students are still finding themselves competing for housing on campus and are on the waiting list for next year.

A Day in the Life of a Student Paralegal

BY NATASHA BETHEA
Contributing Writer

Gaining field experience for both a major and minor is not a problem for junior political science major Alyse Newhouse, who practices her major and minor everyday. She takes on any opportunity where she can learn more and solidify her career plans.

"I enjoy working at a law firm," Newhouse said. "I have experienced so much and each day is a learning process."

While many students have trouble gaining experience in their major until after graduation, Newhouse, who is also a broadcast journalism minor, works three days out of the week at the Law Office of Denise Clark as a paralegal. At work, Newhouse writes complaints for district courts, writes letters to clients and interviews potential clients. She believes that she is gaining experience that many people do not get until law school.

Working for an African-American woman is also very inspiring for Newhouse.

"Working with Denise Clark is amazing," she said. "She is a perfect representation of what I want to be when I get into my career in politics."

Newhouse believes that when she graduates, she will be two steps ahead of other students due to the knowledge she is gaining from her political science courses and her job at the law firm.

In addition to academics and work, Newhouse is very involved on campus. She is the News Letter editor for the College of Arts and Sciences Student Council. Since receiving this position in August, Newhouse writes and reports on the different events across the school. She also takes on the role of photographer.

"I really like being News Letter editor because my minor is in broadcast journalism and this gives me a feel for being a journalist," Newhouse said.

Newhouse also works alongside Stephen Miller and Dorian Blythers, the graphic designer and director of public relations for the student council, respectively.



Natasha Bethea - Contributing Writer

Alyse Newhouse works as a paralegal outside of class to gain work experience.

"The College of Arts and Sciences Student Council has been doing a lot of great things and I am proud to say that I am apart of a great team," Newhouse said.

As a member of the Howard University College Democrats, Newhouse was able to get people to vote and educate them about the candidates throughout the semester.

"I have always had a passion for politics and during a year of an historic election I am so proud to be a member of college democrats," Newhouse said.

In her spare time, Newhouse takes part in a lot of community service activities. Her passion is working with youth and she has tutored at Cardozo High School. Being raised by her grandmother, Newhouse never had role models close to her age that she could relate to because of generational differences.

"I believe that it is important for me to mentor high school girls because I am closer to them in age and I have been through similar things that they have been through," she said.

Balancing work, school and extra-curricular activities is not an impossible task for Newhouse.

"Everything I do is for a reason," she said. "I believe that all of the things I am involved with will help me and prepare me for the real world and my career goals."



Jazelle Hunt - Staff Photographer

Students and Faculty discussed Obama and the 2008 election in Douglass. The event was sponsored by G.O.D.S.C. and NAACP.

Students, Faculty Discuss Relevance of Recent Election

BY BRITTANY HARRIS
Contributing Writer

An exploration of the recent historical election was discussed last night in Douglass hall and students and faculty sought to understand what it meant for people of color in a panel discussion.

"My President is Black," co-sponsored by the Howard Chapter, NAACP; Gentlemen of Drew Social Club, Political Education Action Committee and the Students for a Democratic Society, included panelists from Howard's faculty and alumni.

"The purpose of this program was to create a sense of accountability among Howard students," said Brittney Autry, a senior psychology major and President of Howard Chapter, NAACP. "We're all excited about having a black president, but with that comes great responsibility."

After a recent discussion in Dr. Gregory Carr's class, one of the panelists and African-American studies professor, in regards to what it means to have a black president and from hearing people make comments about the election, Autry added that the program is something that Howard University students needed to hear.

Aurora Ellis, a sophomore Political Science major mediated the discus-

sion, which covered topics such as the accountability of Obama as president and the nation's class system.

"We're in a dark and foreboding period," said Dr. Green, economics professor and panelist. "When you talk about accountability and who is Obama to be accountable to [it's] the ruling class of America. The reality is that this country is a class society and we're not in that [ruling] class."

He added that one shouldn't get too excited or mislead about what Obama has the ability to do.

The discussion also sparked debate when it was mentioned that there was a lack of black identity and issues regarding the black race in President-elect Obama's campaign. Brown mentioned the Democratic National convention and the lack of African-American speakers and images in campaign videos.

"I don't expect Obama to raise the black flag," Brown said. "[But] he's not as representative as he could be."

Freshman psychology major Brandon Griffin believes Obama did not necessarily have to represent blackness.

"I don't think he should have to [emphasize] his blackness," Griffin said. "If he's a politician, he has to represent everyone."

The Panelists also gave time for

students to mention issues they felt were important to the African-American community.

Some of these issues included the judicial system, quality of the urban and public school system, the prison industrial complex, trade policies with Africa, shortage of jobs and reparations for victims of Hurricane Katrina.

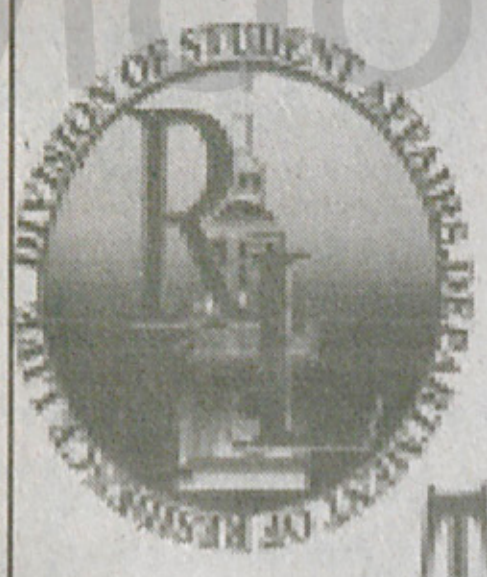
Panelists reiterated that President-elect Obama's candidacy will not guarantee an approach to all African-American issues.

"America is not ready for a Black man to chastise and criticize [how] America is wrong on so many levels," Brown said. "Therefore we need to push him to enact these policies."

That is where the accountability as students, voters and African-American citizens comes into play.

Brown continued, "Students don't spend enough time researching what's really going on. Take the time yourself to research. Dig a little deeper and find out facts for yourself. When you find out the facts, you can say this is what we need to do."

The event closed after open discussion and Dr. Carr left with words to students. "This place was purchased with blood," he said. "Be engaged. Study something and take action."



2008 Project Giveback Thanksgiving Food Distribution



Join the
Howard University Department of Residence Life &
Project GiveBack

**Saturday, November 22, 2008
@ 6:00 A.M.**

One Day of Community Service in the
Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Community



Project GiveBack, a National Community Service Organization founded by Howard Alumnus Ransom Miller III, is calling for the assistance of the Howard University Community. Please join us on Saturday, November 22nd at 6:00 A.M. in front of the Howard Plaza Towers as we travel to Bell Multicultural High School (3101 16th Street, NW, Washington DC 20010) to assemble food baskets and products that will be delivered to families in need. Shuttle buses will begin departing from the Howard Plaza Towers at 6:30 A.M. and will return to campus beginning at 11:00 A.M. Free continental breakfast will be provided at the Towers for all volunteers.

Individual students, Clubs and Organizations can
Sign up in the various Residence Halls or the Office of Residence Life
Located at 2401 Fourth Street - Lower level of the Tubman Quadrangle.

2 RSVP points and a certificate will be given to all volunteers.

For more information, please contact Nicholas Gourdine at 202-806-7379 or Wilson Bland at 202-797-7148.

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And I Wonder...

- ...If Tommy from "Martin" ever had a job.
- ...How long you waited to get a Washington Post the day after the presidential election.
- ...Why do you have to "put your two cents in" but it's only a "penny for your thoughts..." Where's that extra penny going?
- ...How is it that we put a man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?
- ...If a deaf person has to go to court, is it still called a hearing?
- ...Why are you IN a movie, but you're ON TV?
- ...Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground?
- ...Why do doctors leave the room while you change? They're going to see you naked anyway.
- ...Why is "bra" singular and "panties" plural?
- ...Why do toasters always have a setting that burns the toast to a horrible crisp, which no decent human being would eat?

- compiled by the Hilltop Staff

Caught In Style

Scarves

"Fashion definitely inspires my architectural designs."



Who: Rheëyan Johnson, freshman, architecture
Caught: Blackburn Lower Level

What are you wearing?

Hat, Military Base
Tan Scarf, Macy's
Khaki Jacket, H&M
Striped Sweater, American Eagle
Jeans, H&M
Sneakers, Nike
Hunter green bag, Ralph Lauren

I do a lot of sleeping in the studio since I'm an architecture major. I have no free time. Since I'm tall, people tell me that I should model, so I'm kind of interested in that.

Wouldn't it be hard to balance architecture and modeling?

Definitely, it would be hard to balance modeling and college in general.

So are you going to start pursuing that career option?

It is something that I'm interested in pursuing in the future, probably after school.

Have you done modeling here at Howard?

I actually haven't only because I know what they're expecting. Like, they're expecting the really thick, like muscular models, so I guess I can work on that.

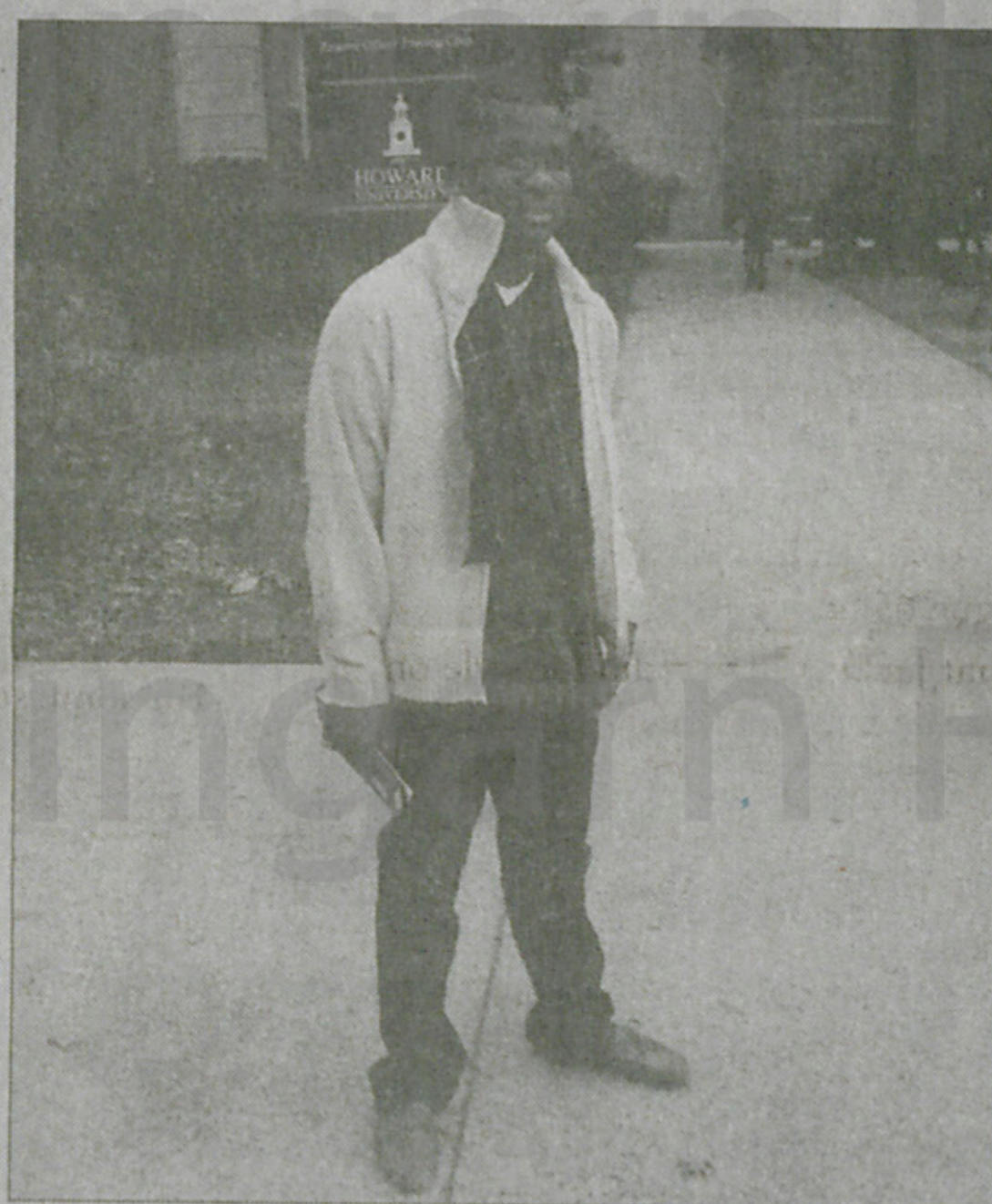
When did you get inspired to do architecture?

I've been interested in architecture since high school. I took a lot of architecture summer programs and ever since then, I've been interested in architecture.

Does fashion inspire your architectural designs?

Fashion definitely inspires my architectural designs — the colors, the textures, the styles. They all inspire me to add different things to my architectural designs.

"I was raised with a 'dressed to impress' mentality."



Who: Nnamdi Anozie, junior, political science/anthropology
Where: Outside Douglass Hall

What are you wearing?

Dark Green Plaid Scarf, Borrowed from Father
Khaki Jacket, Borrowed from Father
Red Sweater, Banana Republic
White Undershirt, Nautica
Jeans, Unknown
Loafers, Saks Fifth Avenue

Currently, I am the Academic Excellence co-chair of the Visionary Leadership Council. Other than that I'm just a regular old, plain old student here at Howard University.

Do you believe that, as a male, it's important to have style?

I was raised with a 'dressed to impress' mentality. First impressions mean everything. So if you definitely know that when someone sees you, they have nothing to work off for the fact that you're an African-American male — which is automatically two strikes in some peoples eyes. You can't afford to take a third in the way that you dress. So I definitely feel that dressing is something that has to be considered. Not only for you, but for your people in general, because you are an image of them. Walking outside, you have to make sure that you are portraying one that everybody wants to see.

Do you believe that style has helped you get where you are?

There are some things that I've gotten, not to say that I wasn't necessarily qualified for it — because I think that I'm qualified for most of the stuff that I've been privy to — but I feel as though having the right attitude and the right style of dress has helped. Sometimes people will see you off break and be like, 'OK, he's in a suit, he's carrying his portfolio and bag,' and I'm not saying its OK, but they will automatically be like, 'He's about his business.'

"My motivation is being comfortable."



Who: Rianna Felder, sophomore, public relations
Caught: Blackburn Cafeteria

What are you wearing?

Black Bonnet, Borrowed from Taylor Bryan
Black Leather Jacket, Borrowed from Bei Smith
Black & White Scarf, Target
Black Dress, Target
Black Printed Stockings, French Connection
Black Leather Boots, Shopbop.com
Silver Earrings, Forever 21

What's something interesting about you?

I'm a really nice person. I'm good at bowling, but you wouldn't know it by looking at me. [I'm good at it] because my sophomore year in high school my P.E. class did a whole bunch of sports and one of them was bowling.

Where does your inspiration in terms of dressing come from?

I get inspiration from Simone Ford and Ine Proctor. They really help me out. I think it's the whole Houston swag, mixed with the Cali vibe. We just get it done.

What's currently the hot accessory here at Howard?

Boots, because they are fly and they can make just any outfit look better.

What's your motivation for looking nice everyday?

Because it makes me feel comfortable. If I go outside in a sweat suit, I feel really uncomfortable, so my motivation is being comfortable.

What is your fashion pet peeve?

I hate when girls that shouldn't wear leggings wear leggings and don't wear something to cover their butts up because they look crazy.

- Photos and interviews compiled by Eboni Washington, Contributing Writer

Rapper Murs Makes Major Moves With New Album

BY ALEESA MANN
Life & Style Editor

Rapper Murs made a name for himself by following his own rules, and now, with his latest album, "Murs For President," the rapper sets out to lead the hip-hop movement.

"I feel like I'm the one to lead hip-hop into a new direction," Murs said. "I have a better head on my shoulders than a lot of my peers."

Despite the opposition he faced early on in his career, Murs was able to complete a world tour without being signed to a major label and is the only rapper with his own music festival -- Paid Dues.

"A lot of people think how they're told to think," he said. "There were people that didn't believe me...and told me, 'You can't go overseas without being on a major label and you can't do this.' People let their limitations become a fact and I just saw no boundaries."

After 15 years of making underground hits, Murs has come back this year with his first major-label album with Warner Bros. Records.

"I kinda got off track over the past couple of years, but recently I just really got back to where it's just I'm going to do what I want to do regardless of what anyone else wants to do or what they status quo may be," Murs said.

The move from underground to major label marks a major milestone for the artist, who hopes the switch will bring him a larger fan base, but acknowledges

some of his old fans may feel he is selling out.

"I realize that this is happening and it will continue to happen, but it's just a point where you got to make a trade off," he said. "You've got to get some new fans, you've got to lose some old fans to get some new fans. Just like getting new clothes as you grow up."

Apart from creating music, Murs also feels a responsibility to provide a positive message to his listeners.

"I don't think it's the job of musicians to raise peoples' kids, but unfortunately especially in the black community due to the lack of good parenting, music is raising the kids," he said.

"These same rappers that say that hip-hop is just entertainment, they're going to use it to sell you cologne...so if you can use it to sell me your clothing line your cologne and your vodka, then why couldn't you use it to help me improve the quality of my life?" he posited. "If you're all about the money, it only makes sense to help your community attain a higher quality of life because then we can buy more vodka and more ugly pants and more whatever else you want us to buy."

Not afraid to eschew his celebrity peers and go against the status quo have established Murs as a strong idealist, but perhaps what's most indicative of his I-do-what-I want attitude may be the one-of-a-kind coif the rapper dons.

At 17 years old, after learning how to lock his hair from Big Daddy Kane on BET's "Rap City," Murs began to grow dreadlocks.

While his hair style is iconic these days, in his teen years Murs often fought with his mother, who didn't approve of his hair or his lifestyle.

"I got kicked out of the house... because I wouldn't cut my hair and I wouldn't stop doing hip-hop," he said of his formative years as he attempted a Rastafarian way of life.

While growing up on the streets of Los Angeles, Murs struggled with balancing his Rastafarian beliefs and the rough exterior of his neighborhood. After an altercation between a group of friends, the rapper realized it was important to stay true to himself.

"I was like man if I'm still getting in these altercations I might as well just stay my black a-- in the hood," he said. "I felt like I had strayed too far away from who I am, but in that process, now I've come full circle to it. Now I'm grounded in both sides of myself. I'm old enough now and I've been through enough where I feel like I can be strong about my personal values."

It's this personal strength that has motivated the rapper to continue making music that has not been affected by the success he's achieved throughout his career.

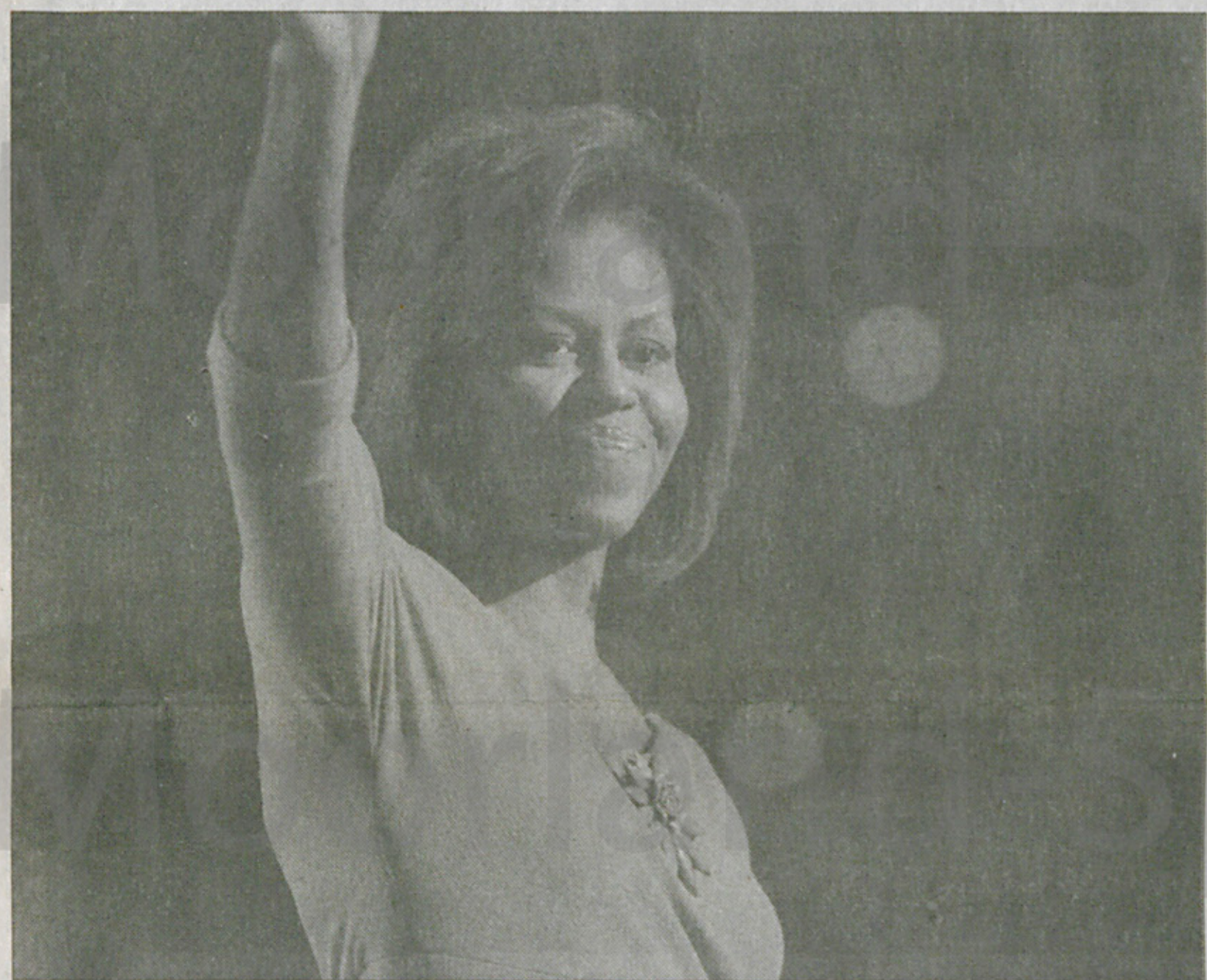
"At the core, [my music] is still the same," he said. "Hopefully it's just a lot of positive energy because I feel that hip-hop could use that and the world could use that."



Photo Courtesy of Lionel Deluy

Recording artist Murs has just signed with major label Warner Bros. Records in 2008 after breaking into the underground hip-hop scene in 1993.

Will First Lady Michelle Obama be the Next Jackie Onassis?



Olivier Douliery-Abaca Press (MCT)

Michelle's fashion choices are making her the next African-American fashion icon.

BY JENERRA C. ALBERT
Staff Writer

On Nov. 4 as thousands anticipated Sen. Barack Obama's victory speech as America's president-elect, there was an similarly anxious faction of people eager to see what fashion statement the next First Lady Michelle Obama, would make that evening.

Michelle Obama has been described as the next Jackie Onassis. Many students feel that Obama may not only have what it takes to be compared to Onassis, but may be in a league of her own.

"What Jackie Onassis did for style on a national scale was amazing," said senior, political science major Dominique Saintfort. "Her style is still seen today, namely with the large sunglasses; Michelle Obama has an amazing style as well. She is a classy, sophisticated black woman whose style will definitely be emulated."

Onassis became known for her iconic style, and similarly Obama is gaining recognition for her fashion sense. In July 2008, she ranked among Vanity Fair's International Best-Dressed List for the second consecutive year.

"I feel that Jackie O presented a much more reserved First Lady than I expect we will see with Michelle Obama," said fashion lecturer and professor Karen Hampton. "With Jackie O, I remember her style being contained within the structure of the garment while Michelle Obama's clothing tends to be less structural but is about color and design that accentuate the rich brown tones of her complexions."

For some students, Obama's clothing choices impact the way she is perceived by the public.

"Michelle mixes it up with bright colored dresses and a modern twist on the skirt suit," said Jenkins. "It makes her more personable, she does not look up tight in a basic suit."

"[Obama show's] the world, not just the nation, that classy, sophisticated style that black women have," Saintfort said.

Obama and Onassis have classic, professional styles as well as beautifully proportioned figures that allow them to showcase designer clothing, however, their style begins to differ more in their personality than their clothing, Hampton said.

She finds the greatest difference between the two honorable first ladies is class, and described Obama's style as a modified version of African-American fashions of the 1960s.

"If you were to go through the pages of Jet or Ebony magazines you would see the great influences of her style," Hampton said.

"My projection is that she will maintain an iconic status as a leader of style for African-American women's dress and possibly be a major influence in the designs we see on the runway in the coming years."

H-RATED: ALBUM REVIEWS

Album: I Am...Sasha Fierce
Artist: Beyonce
Label: Sony
Release Date: November 18, 2008

The music world welcomes a new family member to R&B. She is bold, flashy, and powerful. For many years, she has been a secret kept by one of the world's most successful performers. Finally, she has arrived and her name is Sasha Fierce.

Slightly unexpected this album entitled "I Am...Sasha Fierce," reveals a side of Beyonce that her fans have never seen before. The double album displays the distinct difference between Beyonce and her alter ego Sasha.

The first half of the album displays a vulnerable side of Beyonce. A different approach is taken in the way she expresses her deepest emotions and fears. Her first single, "If I Were a Boy," metaphorically displays a woman's ultimate desire to have her man understand her needs. This is visualized in the music video for the song with Beyonce trading places with a man and showing him how it feels to be in her shoes.

Upon Beyonce stripping away her emotions, contradictions in her lyrics become present. In her single, "Broken Hearted Girl," she describes being in a relationship where she is tired of being hurt and she refuses to receive another broken heart. However, contrary to this he is the only one for her and at the end of the day she will be by his side.

The "I Am" portion of the album gives listeners an adult, contemporary feel of a side of Beyonce some might find foreign. Instead of her fearless approach seen on her 2nd solo album with her single "Irreplaceable," we see a woman who admits to being afraid and who is not invincible.



Photo Courtesy of Sony

"Sasha Fierce," which is the second part of the album, introduces listeners to Beyonce's stage persona. Sasha Fierce is an aggressive, outspoken, fairly intimidating woman who knows what she wants and how to get it.

Beyonce's second single off her third solo album, "Single Ladies (Put a Ring On It)," gives listeners an upbeat, girly rendition of woman domination. This new anthem for single ladies everywhere puts a fun twist on letting go of the past and sends a message of female independence.

Slick-talking is a characteristic of Sasha Fierce and Beyonce displays this in "Diva." She describes a diva as "the female version of a hustler" and getting paid is exactly what she does.

"I Am...Sasha Fierce, reveals the true Beyonce -- both vulnerable and fierce. Overall, the album is good and listeners will not be disappointed, especially because of the representation of Sasha Fierce on the album. In this case, two extremes of one phenomenal artist come together to form a classic album.

Overall Rating: A-

-reviewed by Natasha Bethea, Contributing Writer



Photo Courtesy of Warner Bros. Records

Album: Murs for President
Artist: Murs
Label: Warner Bros. Records
Release Date: September 30, 2008

Introducing Murs, the dread locked Los Angeles rapper who, stylistically, is a hybrid of your favor west coast rapper and your favorite African-American Studies Teacher. Murs makes a very impressive campaign with the release of his major label debut, "Murs For President."

Murs For President seems to successfully walk the line between providing content that will appeal to a national audience while staying true to the style that helped him form his grass roots fan base. Songs like "Lookin' Fly" featuring Will.i.am appeals listeners who need something to dance to, while Murs gives listeners a lesson in black history and thought with "The Science."

In one of the highlights of the album, the thought provoking "Think You Know Me," Murs paints the picture of three would-be gangbangers who are trying

to be legit businessmen and fathers in their California community.

Murs For President also provides listeners with a glimpse into Murs's personal life and the grind of the business. "Road is My Religion" dispels the myths of glamour that is conveyed in hip-hop music videos and displays the harsh realities that many artists face in pursuing their musical ambitions. On tracks such as "Part of Me" and "Break Up," Murs chronicles various chapters from relationships with the women in his life.

Though "Murs For President" is a solid debut on the national stage, the campaign does have a few flaws. While the campaign does succeed in conveying positive messages and challenging content, there are times when the lyricism is lacking and some of the album's featured artists seem out of place and at times useless.

Much like Hillary Clinton, Murs makes a solid case for himself, but is not quite ready to seriously compete with the likes of Jay-Z and Wayne. However, Murs contribution to the game is too valuable to ignore, and "Murs For President" will undoubtedly find a significant place in my cabinet.

Overall Rating: B+

-reviewed by Joshua Mitchell, Contributing Writer

ADVERTISEMENT

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READS THE HILLTOP..."**

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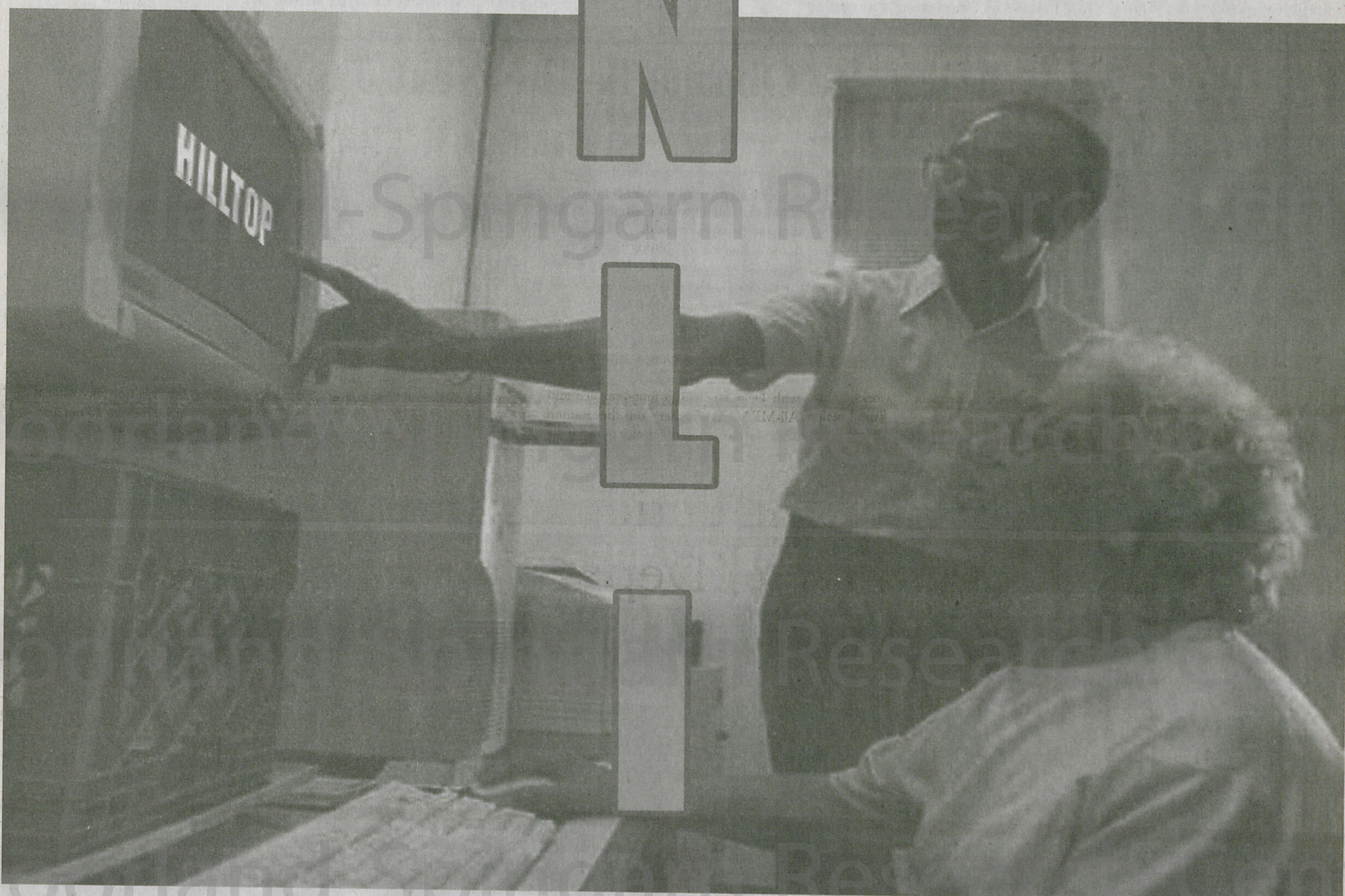
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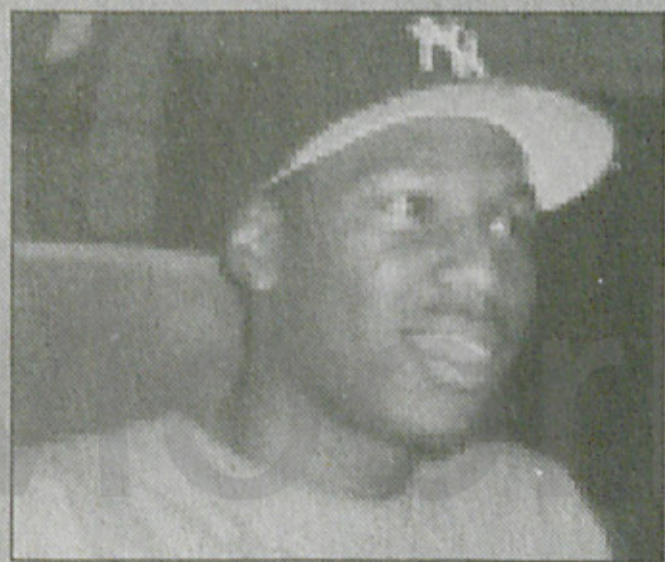
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Rockin' the Burr On a Friday Night



BY MICHAEL BENJAMIN
Contributing Columnist

I'm kind of glad President-elect Barack Obama failed to make a cameo at Howard's opening night basketball game on Friday.

Don't get me wrong — I'd be the first person extending my Sharpie pen to our president-elect, hoping he'd sign my T-shirt, program or face. I was happy to hear this barrier-breaking man may attend our first basketball game to support his brother-in-law, who was pacing the opposite sideline. I got a chance to meet Coach Craig Robinson and found him a charismatic and friendly person, even though he's had to deal with the media circus that has pestered him since the beginning of Barack's campaign.

The absence of the president-elect gave the Bison the opportunity to highlight their talents and prove their worth to a skeptical audience. Luckily, the Bison didn't disappoint, snatching the spotlight from the president-elect and winning one of the biggest games in its history. As guard Eugene Myatt said to me, "I wouldn't have it any other way."

Before game time, I was fearful the buzz surrounding Obama's potential appearance would die down and the fans would skip out on the game. My fears were assuaged when a friend called me minutes before tip-off in pursuit of a spare ticket, a query that I laughed at, promptly hanging up the phone. En route to Burr, I was denied entrance onto the university shuttle because it was already full of excited students. I was glad I had a media pass.

When I arrived at the arena, Burr was already rocking. I loved seeing the confusion plastered on the faces of the OSU faithful, who were not used to hearing a crowd sing the black national anthem in harmony minutes before tip-off. I was happy to see the crowd unite in the classic wave that circled Burr during the middle of the second half. The band was excellent and the cheerleaders sensational. On this night, the excitement present in Burr was on par with the other stadia of college basketball, even leading sports writers from local newspapers to mention it in their game summaries.

As the ball rolled off the rim to cement the upset, I pumped my fist and joined the fans still cheering for our players. I left Burr in haste to try to catch the late local news in the hopes that our victory would be mentioned. Though our team ruined Coach Robinson's grandiose debut, we received little recognition from the local news networks. I guess we'll need to have constant success to gain recognition alongside the perennial superstars of the college basketball world.

On all levels of basketball, the same idea always rings true. In order to build a successful basketball program, you need to acquire the support of the fans. If you don't, your team will eventually fail to succeed. That's why the Vancouver Grizzlies sprinted to Memphis. Organizations need fans to survive. You can't live on the fruits of the homecoming tradition and expect to begin a lasting level of success on the collegiate level.

At one point, I didn't think Burr could foster that winning atmosphere. However, after Friday's victory, I believe we can recreate that magic and foster an atmosphere that can house a winning basketball team. At the very least, we can make it tough for teams to squeak out victories at Burr.

If you want to see a basketball team rise from the ashes of an abandoned collegiate conference, you need to support your team. With a growing student body that is now over 10,000 students, we have the ability to pack out the Burr on any given night. We can recreate the imposing aura that propelled our team to victory on Friday night every night.

Today, the Bison will be playing American at 7 p.m. at the Burr. Don't worry ... I'll try to save you a seat.

Michael A. Benjamin II is an English major, creative writer and avid sports fan from Queens Village, N.Y. You can read more of his ramblings on sports at his blog, PointsOffTurnovers.blogspot.com

Tonja Braxton Juggles Academic Advising, Head Coaching Softball

BY PHYLCIA SMITH AND JAMELA JOSEPH
Contributing Writers

Juggling two positions within Howard University's athletic department is not an easy task, but head softball coach Tonja Braxton takes it in stride.

For the past seven years, Braxton has held the position of head coach for the Howard University women's softball team.

For six of those years, she has also served as the assistant director for academic advising and student athlete support services.

"I multi task all the time. I am constantly switching gears throughout the day," Braxton said.

Braxton is responsible for advising about 200 student-athletes in addition to coaching 15 players on the softball team.

Originally from Silver Spring, Md., Braxton received a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in public administration from Bowie State University.

While at Bowie State, Braxton played softball and was a cheerleader.

She said she became a softball coach by chance, but her passion for the sport made it easy for her.

"My love for softball is self-explanatory," Braxton said.

Before coaching for Howard, Braxton worked as an accountant and an auditor for the Marriott Hotel in Georgetown.

There is never a dull moment in Braxton's day. From meeting daily with student-athletes to regulating study halls and having practice with the softball team, there is always something to do.

Students also visit her office throughout the day. Coach Braxton constantly has conversations with students about professors, careers, curriculums, study hall and tutors.

"I don't watch the clock ... my day ends when my tasks for that day are done, not when it's 5 p.m.," Braxton said.

Interaction with the administration building is imperative for her student-athletes.

Coach Braxton works in conjunction with Enrollment Management and the records office.

"I have to be very organized and I try to pay attention to detail," Braxton said.

Most of Braxton's students complain to her about the lack of customer service they feel that they receive from their advisors.

"Either the advisors don't have time for them, won't see them or aren't available to give them PIN numbers," Braxton said.

This becomes difficult because self-advising is not something her department promotes.

A problem Braxton struggles with the most is accountability from her students.

"If you cannot get it done off the field, then how can you be trusted with performing on the field?" Braxton said. She believes structure is important and she strives to instill that in all the athletes.

"Coach Braxton definitely makes sure to contact the athletic coaches in order to inform the athletes on upcoming administrative deadlines," said Matthew Marshall, a sophomore television production major and soccer player.

Braxton's two fondest memories thus far are winning the MEAC women's softball championship in 2007 and receiving a hand-made card from a graduating football player last May, who thanked her for being an inspiration to him while attending Howard.

Braxton's job as head coach of the softball team has begun early this year.

Two weeks ago, the team held an alumni game at Banneker Stadium.

Candice Tatum, a 2008 graduate, noted the new team's strength. The returning infielder said, "They were blasting home runs, hitting them off of slow pitches, fast pitches. It was crazy! The whole team looked solid, and I can't wait to see what they are going to do this season."

Fourteen former Lady Bison returned for the event in which they were swept by the current Bison squad. Even with Dale McNeal (a four-year ace and All-MEAC performer) on the mound and former all-conference standouts



Photo Courtesy of Howard University Sports Information Office

Tonja Braxton, head softball coach and academic advisor for Howard's Athletic Department, gives advice to a softball player during practice. The team is already off to a strong start.

Tracy Javier, Kenicia Cross, Debbie Lee, Rishelle Charles and Nayrobi Nicholas in the field, the vets did not stand a chance against the current squad.

The game was not simply competitive, though — it became a game filled with fun and laughter.

"I expected us to get whooped by the new girls because a lot of the alumni hadn't played since they left, but I was expecting a more challenging game," Tatum said with a chuckle.

More than the competition, players were happy to participate in the historical game.

Jones was proud to be playing with some of the girls who were a part of the beginning of the softball program, which Braxton started six years ago.

"It was basically a way to bring

together the past and the future of the program," Jones said. "Without the past, we would not have a future."

Though it was not a season game, the players feel confident about their upcoming season and are glad to have complete support from the alumni.

"The team is dynamite this year, and I can't wait to head to Florida for the MEAC championships to see them win another ring," Tatum said.

Junior center fielder Courtney Young, who sat on the sidelines of the alumni game due to an injury, ensures the team will do exceptionally well.

"We are going to win the MEAC," Young said. "I think on paper we are the best team, but it is not only what it says on paper, but we have to go out and keep working hard and go ahead and win."

Associate Athletic Director Harris Helps Lead Athletic Department to Recognition

BY NATASHA BETHEA
Contributing Writer

Students at Howard University do not seem to notice the importance of the Department of Athletics.

However, the athletes work hard to carry on the rich legacy of Bison pride and the Department of Athletics is working even harder to gain recognition in the Howard community and beyond.

One of these unsung heroes in the department is Dexter Harris.

Harris has been the associate director of athletics at Howard for three years.

His long sports career includes serving as the coordinator of intramural and recreational activities for several years.

Harris has also held the position as assistant baseball coach at both old Dominion University and Barton College.

Before he came to Howard, he was an area scouting supervisor for the Atlanta Braves.

"I enjoy working here at Howard. The atmosphere and the students make my job a lot of fun," Harris said.

Harris is amazed by the experiences he has had at the university.

Here, his passion for sports mixes with his passion for helping young people.

Harris, who loves taking on challenges, believes working at the Mecca

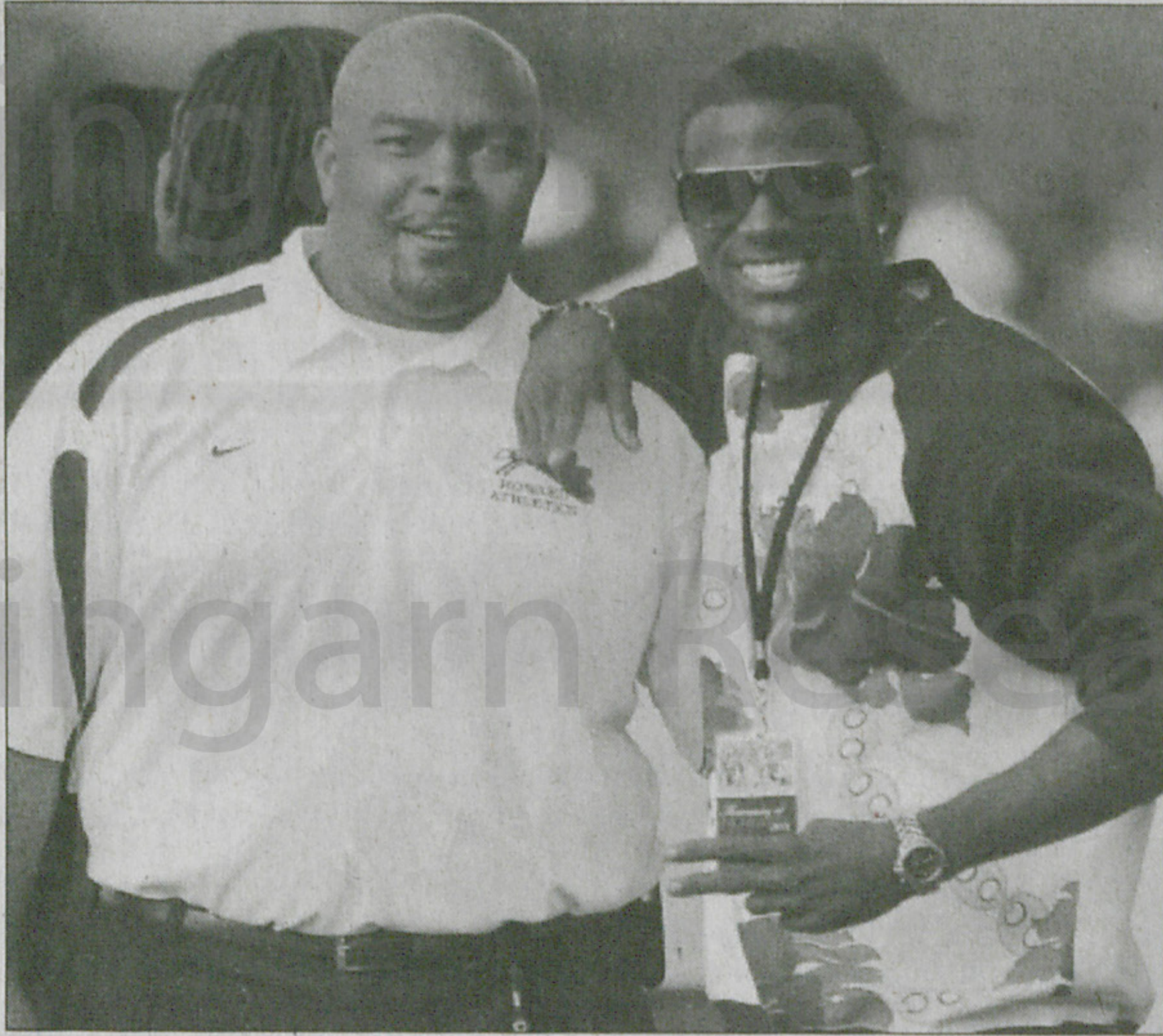


Photo Courtesy of Howard University Sports Information Office

Dexter Harris (left) poses with Howard graduate and actor Lance Gross during a Bison football game. He said student involvement at games is crucial to the department's success.

makes an individual strong.

"Working with students can be challenging, but the real reward of my job is seeing them succeed," Harris said.

Family brought Harris to the Washington, D.C. area.

When he was given the opportunity to work at Howard, he didn't hesi-

tate.

"I believe working at Howard gave me the opportunity to be a mentor to young African Americans and be a part of their growth," Harris said.

Harris said one of the best aspects of his job is making a difference in students' lives and helping them get where

they want to go. He is eager to help students reach their goals, whether in sports or academics.

In addition to being a positive role model, some of Harris's duties as associate athletic director are overseeing game day operations, sports equipment and athletic training.

He also oversees transportation and housing. Harris also assists in scheduling and making purchases in the department.

Being the associate director of athletics, in his opinion, is slightly different from being the coordinator of intramural and recreational activities.

"This job as associate director is more demanding because all of the issues dealing with our athletes come to me," said Harris.

Harris believes athletics at Howard are headed in the right direction, but there is still work to be done.

He hopes to see growth in the department, such as better facilities and growth in academic advising and an increase in the coaching staff.

Harris also said in order for the department of athletics to improve, it needs the support of the Howard Community.

"Students' involvement and attendance at sporting events is crucial to the success of our department. It means a lot to our athletes and seeing our athletes happy means that we have done our job," said Harris.

Former Lady Bison Begins Clothing Line

BY LAMAR LOCKRIDGE
Contributing Writer

After Asha Santee, a former Lady Bison basketball player, graduated from Howard in spring 2007 with a degree in audio production, she started a clothing line called NOTE 2 SELF.

Santee, a native of Houston, Texas, played guard during her basketball career at Howard.

She played in a total of 54 games

throughout her career. Her career high is 10 points.

Even though basketball played a role in her life, surprisingly, it is not a motivation behind the clothing line.

"I love basketball, but it does not play a role. NOTE 2 SELF is based solely on my love for music," Santee said.

Santee's first design was sold to her good friend Terease Thorton.

"I showed my first design to Terease and she said she loved it," Santee said.

From that point on, Santee began making clothes for herself and others.

"I would definitely buy it," Terease said. "When I saw the shirt, my first thought was this is her — creative, innovative and like nothing I've seen before."

NOTE 2 SELF is not a clothing line that expresses just what the designer envisions.

The line is for men, woman and children, young and old.

Those who desire a personalized shirt may contact Santee directly.

Santee promotes and sells her clothing line at the Black Marketplace on the cafeteria level of the Blackburn Center on Fridays.

Santee's ultimate goal is to create a major clothing line in which people can express themselves through her unique and innovative apparel.

From Reconstruction to the Presidency

How Blacks Have Come into Power

BY OMARI EVANS
Staff Writer

Before there was a black president, blacks fought tirelessly to obtain positions of power in America for hundreds of years.

Many scholars believe that during Reconstruction, which took place from 1860 to 1870 and followed the Civil War, blacks were able to break the first barriers altogether.

At the time, the U.S. focused on abolishing slavery.

"The Union Army occupied many of the capitals in the South and was forced to allow blacks in the area to vote, which allowed blacks to be elected into Congress and the Senate," said former Congressman Major Owens (D-N.Y.).

Political scientist Wilmer Leon, Ph.D., said blacks made tremendous gains during Reconstruction.

"There were more of us that were elected to state, local and national governments during Reconstruction, which also caused a lot of fear in Southern whites, which brought an end to Reconstruction. In a business perspective, we were progressing. From a state and local legislative perspective, we were progressing."

What destroyed a lot of the progress made by blacks during Reconstruction was the heated presidential election of 1876 that led to the Compromise of 1877.

In the compromise, Republican Rutherford Hayes won the presidency but agreed to remove federal troops from the South in exchange.

As a result, "All hell broke loose, and things went backwards," Owens said.

Black leadership was killed, thanks to the Jim Crow laws.

Before blacks could re-emerge into levels of power, Leon believes the black middle class needed to develop.

"The rise of the black middle class is directly attributable to what transpired after World War II," Leon said.

"After World War II, with the desegregation of military and the number of black veterans that returned, with their ability to get education with the GI bill, with their ability to buy homes through veterans programs and those kinds of things as well as the psychological impact that it had on us as a people, having fought for our country and strengthening our resolve to have the country

Johnson said government is meant to serve the people. If the people don't have input in selecting government leaders, there voice will not be heard.

Owens believes the next turning point emerged with Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech at the Lincoln Monument in 1969.

"Martin Luther King's speech was a great landmark in

obtain different jobs in the executive branch thanks to President Clinton, Congressman Johnson noted. Clinton had about 400 blacks in his cabinet.

Even President Bush improved the presence of black elected officials by appointing Colin Powell and Condoleezza Rice to positions in the executive branch.

"This all prepared America for a psychological acceptance of black people at very high levels," Johnson said.

And after hundreds of years of seeping into the American government, the first black man was elected to the highest government position in the land: the presidency.

"Finally, we had the election of a first African-American president who, building on what the others put in place, put together the best national campaign ever in the history of this country and brought people together with his message of hope and change for the future," Johnson said.

However, Leon believes barriers blacks and minorities face have yet to be broken after Obama's election victory.

"John McCain still got 48 percent of the vote," Leon said.

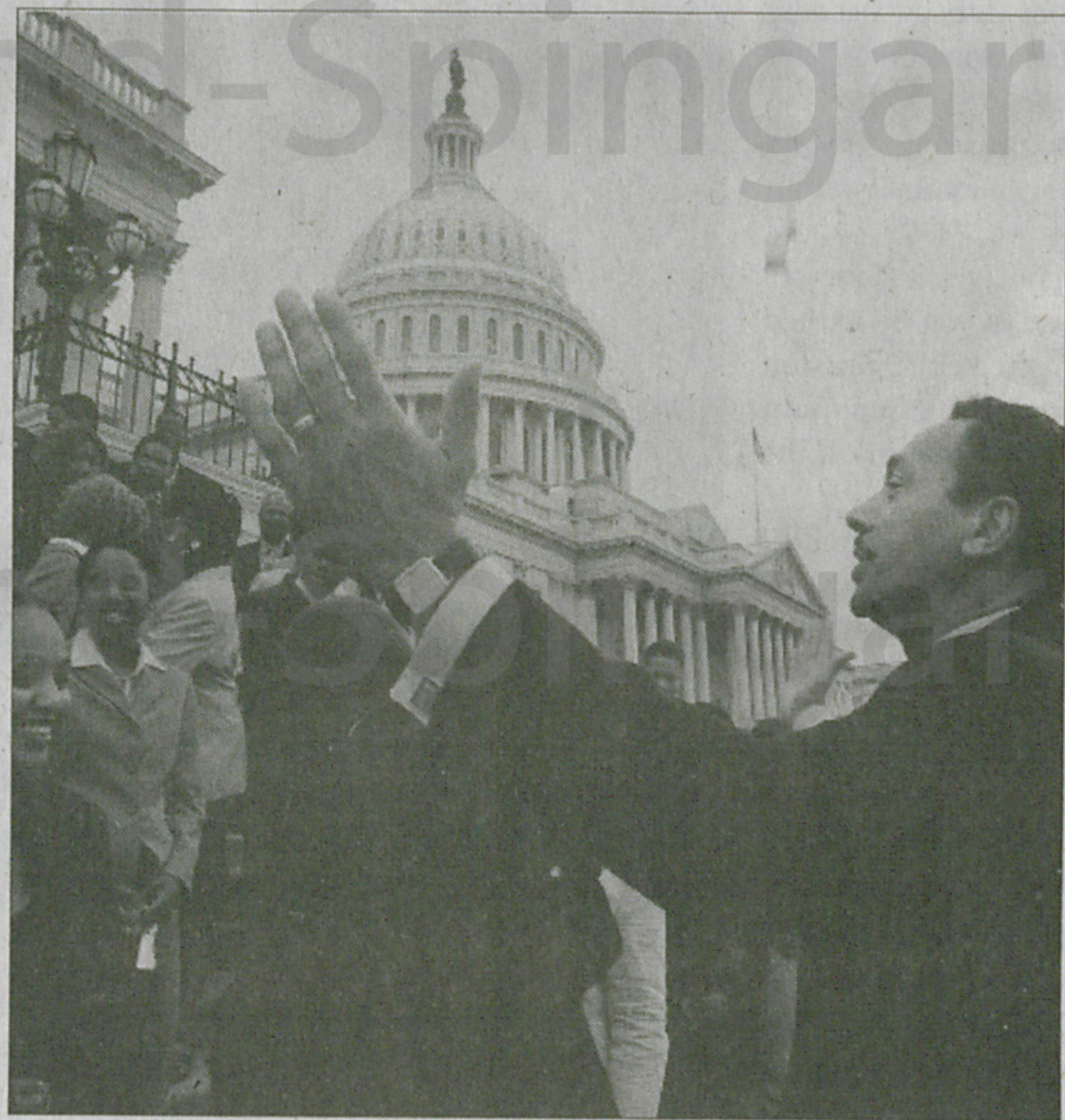
He said there is still a considerable number of people who consider race an issue, so barriers still exist.

Leon said the fact that President-elect Obama has received more death threats than anyone else in that position in history tells him there are still those that don't want to see blacks succeed.

He thinks the barriers for the everyday person and for a manager, vice president or director are still there.

He said President-elect Obama is an exception to the rule.

"I see the change coming in many instances; not so much in the minds of white people as they look at us, but it changes our perception of ourselves and in terms of what I am now able to say to my son, who is 6 years old," Leon.



Rep. Mel Watt of North Carolina, former head of the Congressional Black Caucus, works to get photos taken on the steps of the U.S. Capitol in June 2005.

live up to its precepts that we were in Europe and Korea fighting for — I would say the end of World War II was one of those very significant and underappreciated circumstances."

Blacks began to break glass ceilings again in the 1960s.

"The Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 ushered in a new day of African-American participation in the political process of this nation," said Congressman Hank Johnson (D-Ga.).

These two acts outlawed racial segregation and outlawed discriminatory voting practices that caused widespread voter disenfranchisement among African Americans.

bringing whites and blacks together," Owens said. "It made whites become not so afraid of blacks in search of their freedom."

Another turning point was when Rev. Jesse Jackson ran for the presidency in 1984 and 1988.

"There were tremendous coattails that [Rev. Jackson] had in terms of the number of not only people that were elected, but people that were also then appointed to positions within government and within agencies," Leon said.

Owens said after Jesse Jackson ran, there were larger numbers in the Congressional Black Caucus elected and the caucus emerged as a "highly visible arm in the government."

Blacks were then able to

Through the Eyes of a
Nation & World Editor...



Top 5 Overlooked News Stories of the Week

5. The new presidential administration hasn't even taken office yet and already the Justice Department is trying to get their act together! According to Cnn.com, **a jury awarded \$2.5 million to a teen beaten by Klan members.**

Jordan Gruver, a U.S. citizen of Panamanian and Native-American descent, was severely beaten by America's own terrorist organization because they thought Gruver was an illegal Latino immigrant (I guess vision gets kinda blurry under those hoods). Gruver won \$1.5 million in compensatory damages and \$1 million in punitive damages against Ron Edwards, the Klan's "Imperial Wizard." The sad part of this story is that the jury actually needed five hours to deliberate. What's even sadder is the group's description on their Web site, which still claims they are "a Christian organization" ... sigh.

4. According to *USA Today*, **a Wisconsin woman pleads no contest in toilet corpse case ...** Tammy Lewis, 36, helped her "religious leader" hide the decaying corpse of a 90-year-old woman in her toilet so Lewis and Alan Bushey could continue to collect the woman's Social Security checks. Wow, the economy must be worse off than I thought. I'm not sure how much comes in those checks, but to hide somebody in a toilet to keep getting it may be going a little too far to stay afloat in these tough financial times. Anyway, this behavior is clearly cult-like, and their story will probably be made into a script for an episode on next season's *Law & Order: SVU*. Not only is this disgusting and deplorable, it's really weird.

3. *USA Today* reports the release of a new board game that is sure to offend just about everybody in the world. **The "Playing Gods" game satirizes religious violence** as little game pieces allow players to chose between "Jesus bashing people with a cross, Moses slugging away with the tablets of the Ten Commandments, the Buddha with a machine gun and a turbaned fellow with a bomb and a dagger vaguely hinting at Mohammed, all to be set loose to 'force the people of the world to worship you'." said *USA Today* reporter Cathy Lynn Grossman. The game even allows individual players to chose between other "gods" if none of the former fit them, including Oprah, alcohol, Satan, technology, Islam and "the almighty dollar." Umm ... yeah, I don't think you'll be able to find this game in your local Toys 'R' Us.

2. So, it was long rumored around the campus of Howard University that a certain former president was making more than his fair share in salary from students "tuition and fees." True or not, 15 other college presidents have been put on blast for cashing big checks from the schools they preside over. The *Associated Press* reported that **15 presidents of public research universities took home at least \$700,000 in 2007 and 2008.** Wow, while some people are hiding corpses to collect Social Security checks, others are doing A-OK during this recession. With the median salary of public university presidents being around \$400,000, I think I'm fully within my rights to be upset at these numbers, and here's why: According to the College Board, public university tuition increased 6.4 percent this past fall, federal student loan interest rates are up to 6.8 percent, and students still have to be nearly dirt poor to receive adequate need-based financial assistance from both the government and many colleges. So yes, I'm very upset about these college presidents making well over half a million a year while students like myself, can barely afford to buy books.

1. According to the *Associated Press*, **dozens of protesting journalists were arrested in Sudan.** The AP reports that Sudanese authorities arrested the male and female journalists after they gathered in front of the parliament building to protest state censorship. Freedom of the press is guaranteed under the Sudanese government, but many journalists say they have experienced an attack of their expression because of the expected elections next year. It's always a sad, sad day when a journalist anywhere is denied the right to do their job as the watchful eye over the government and as the public's most trusted informant. To my Sudanese comrades in the field, I salute you for raging against The Man (because he exist everywhere) and fighting for your right to do (what I consider) the most important job in the world.

- Jada F. Smith, Nation & World Editor

Odd Angles

Strange news from around the world

- "Meh" has found it's way into the dictionary. According to AOL.com, the one-syllable expression of indifference gained popularity after it's use in a 2001 episode of 'The Simpsons.'
- The *Associated Press* reports an inmate in a Canadian prison has been released early because he was too fat. The prison facility allowed "Big Mike" to get early parole because of his good behavior and because the facility could not accommodate the needs of the 430-pound man. He was serving time for conspiracy, drug trafficking and "gangsterism."
- According to *The Sun Chronicle of Attleboro*, the city of Attleboro, Mass., threatened to place a lien on a 74-year-old blind woman's home unless she paid an overdue water bill. The woman owed the city 1 cent.
- According to the *Beaver County Times*, John Black, a man in Rochester, Penn., bound his neighbor with duct tape, doused him with gasoline and threatened to set him on fire unless he confessed to burglarizing his house. Black was charged with burglary, aggravated assault and unlawful restraint.

- Compiled by Jada F. Smith, Nation & World Editor

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR ACRS?

The United States government has a plethora of administrative agencies all identified by letter acronyms. Think you can name them all?

CNPP - Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion

The USDA Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion seeks to improve the health and overall well-being of Americans by promoting and developing dietary guidance based on scientific research related to the nutritional needs of consumers. CNPP is a branch of the USDA's Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services (most commonly known for creating the food pyramid).

CDC - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The CDC works to create the information and tools citizens need to protect their health through health promotion, prevention of disease, injury and disability and preparedness for new health threats. The CDC also detects and investigates health problems, conducts scientific research, develops public health policies and promotes healthy behaviors.

CFA - Commission of Fine Arts

The CFA gives expert advice to the president, Congress and the heads of departments and agencies on matters of design and aesthetics. It provides advice to the U.S. Mint on the design of coins and medals, and approves the sight and design of national memorials, amongst other things.

CCR - Commission on Civil Rights

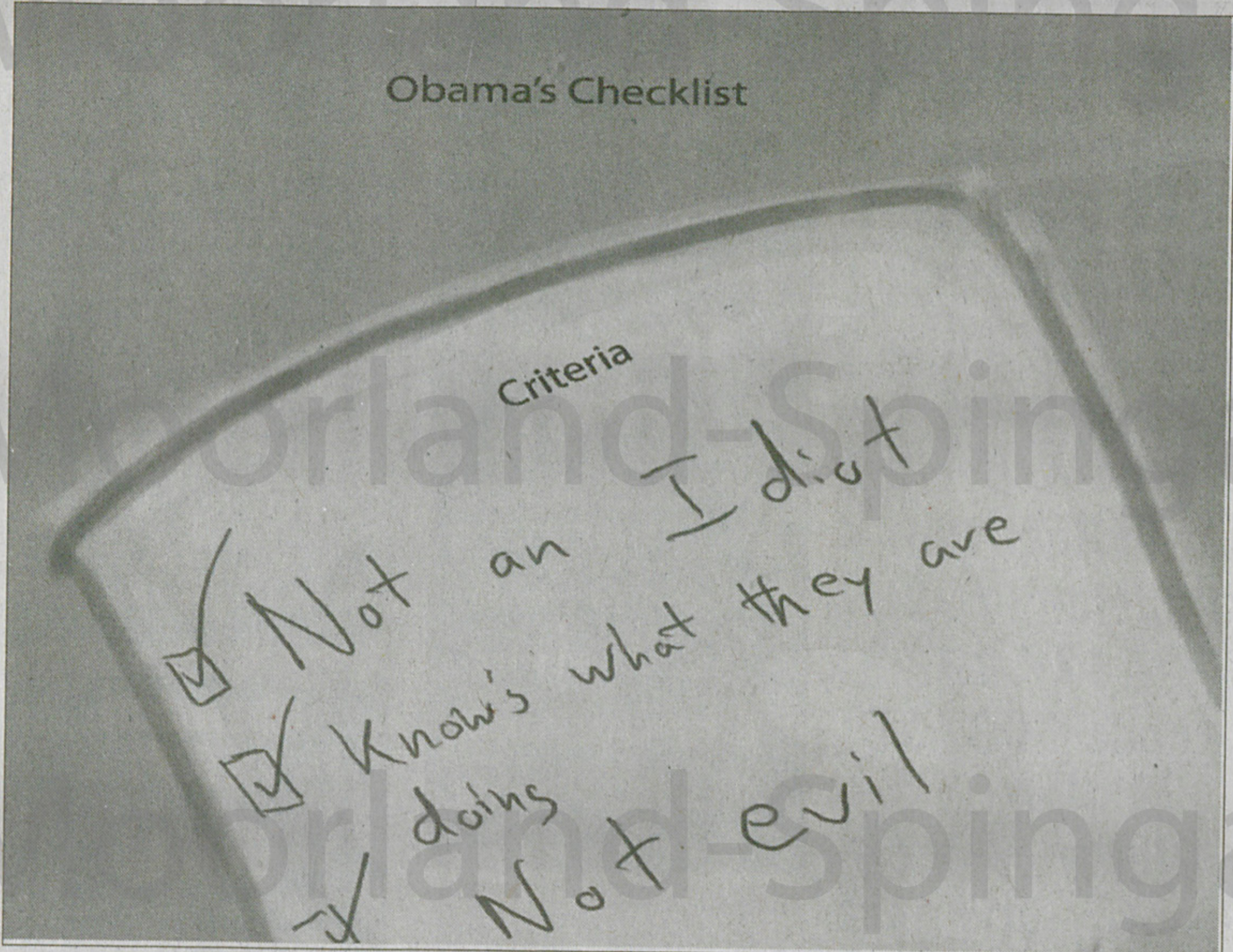
The Commission on Civil Rights investigates complaints about citizens being kept from voting by the reason of race, color, religion, sex, age, disability or national origin or by reason of fraudulent practices.

Information courtesy of Usa.gov

-- by Jada F. Smith, Nation & World Editor

"One of the first things young people, especially nowadays, should learn is how to see for yourself and listen for yourself and think for yourself."

-Malcolm X, activist



Charles Metz III - Cartoonist

Obama Plans to Waste No Time Appointing His Cabinet

Although President-elect Barack Obama has yet to take office, the decision-making process has already begun and it is showing insight into the type of administration that Obama will run.

Only a few days after he was elected, Obama relinquished his Senate seat and began the strategic planning of his cabinet appointments.

Throughout the primary season, critics of Obama attacked him for being too inexperienced to run the country. Despite the fact that Obama won the election by a landslide, his appointments thus far and rumors about other potential candidates prove that he is in need of a balanced and experienced cabinet.

Obama's first decision was naming his Chief of Staff. Despite his hopes of becoming House Speaker, Congressman Rahm Emmanuel enthusiastically agreed to accept the position.

Before he became a congressman, Emmanuel served as a political and policy aide during the Clinton administration and assisted in fundraising initiatives and creative thinking throughout his tenure in the White House.

Obama's Chief of Staff

appointment speaks volumes. Not only is Emmanuel experienced in national politics, but he also served as an aide to the nation's most well-liked Democratic presidents, Bill Clinton.

the Democratic nomination for president, political pundits and other analysts began to predict whether or not Obama would choose Clinton to be his running mate.

If Obama were to choose Clinton as his secretary of state, it is fair to assume she would have a significant influence on the administration due to her powerful personality and previous experiences in the White House.

Clinton has always been considered to have ulterior motives and this position would probably allow her to carry those out.

Top Democratic officials have reported that Robert Gibbs will serve as press secretary. Obama also plans to appoint his cabinet in record time, having at least 100 cabinet and subcabinet members by April 1. The 44th administration will have an immense task awaiting them once they each take office.

Obama will need to appoint experienced individuals who share a belief in his mantra of change. Hopefully his cabinet will be able to repair the infrastructure of national politics.

Our View:

Obama should appoint members who share his belief in change, but who also have experience in national politics.

Now that Obama has chosen his Chief of Staff, the next appointment to make is his secretary of state. Aside from the president and vice president, the secretary of state has the most important office in the cabinet and often receives the same amount of attention from the media as the president.

Sen. Hillary Clinton is rumored to be Obama's pick for secretary of state. Although a decision has yet to be made, the media has already begun to have a field day.

After Clinton failed to win

Perspective Style Check

Is it just me, or has fashion at the Mecca been in a serious state of remission?

I've noticed this for quite some time, but it wasn't until recently that I decided to share my thoughts. Take Howard's Homecoming festivities for example. It is not only a time for alumni to come back and celebrate or for the band to battle our opposing team's, but it is also where you see some of the most well-fashioned young adults. This year's activities, named after the theme "EDEN," motivated my disappointment in HU style.

Fashion reflects more than the styles of dress; fashion represents personality, aura, social aspects, mannerisms, innovation and most importantly, individuality. That fashion that Howard once mastered is slowly but surely becoming obsolete.

The diverse and creative expression of each individual student has been put on the back burner due to our laziness, seniority, internships or whatever other overwhelming commitments we have on our schedules. This was not HU's M.O. my freshman year and sadly, the nation's best-dressed university has fallen off the scene.

What happened to the "total package?" You know, the student who earned good grades, dressed well, balanced an internship and served on the e-board of their respective organization(s).

I'm not saying we all have to wear 4-inch heels, a full face of make-up and the trendiest jeans, but can we at least be presentable? Even the person with no knowledge of fashion whatsoever has style — they may not know it, but they do. What happened to that person?

On the bright side, we still have a handful of fashion forward students, but there was once a time where the vast majority of Howard's campus was unafraid to embrace our eclectic and unique way of dress, and because of our rebellious nature, we stood out from the rest.

A unique sense of fashion can even extend into the corporate world. The job market admires the business suit with a twist: the purple blouse instead of the mandated white. I actually had an experience on an interview when the interviewer expressed to me that everyone for the position was highly qualified, but she almost didn't know how to make her final decision.

She asked herself who looked the part and who stood out the most at first sight. Not to my surprise, it was the Howard University student who looked business-appropriate but fashionably different. Let us not forget the urban community who also look to us for guidance. Designers and fashion innovators are able to forecast trends based on the reflections of urban style and cul-

ture; this includes us.

Lately, we've given them nothing. We once represented what is known as the trickle-up theory, in which trends begin from the bottom (the streets), then work their way up to the top (celebrities). We've gone unnoticed because we don't notice ourselves and we're simply just "blending" in.

I think it would be safe to assume that Howard has merely forgotten that our appearance is the first impression we make. Before they hear us speak and realize how articulate we may be, that we're such a good person or that we're loads of fun, others can't get past our appearance. Whether we're boring them to death or they're intrigued by our fabulous sense of style, our employers and our peers see.

Howard used to be that one place in the world where different was accepted, the place where style was defined and embodied by its students. Let's reclaim our title and continue to be leaders of the fashion world. So when you wake up tomorrow morning, keep in mind that fashion is everywhere and whether you like it or not, it's part of you, it reflects you and unfortunately, it's the first judgment we're given.

- Angelique N. Momon
senior, fashion merchandising major

Daily Sudoku

Directions:

Each row, each column and each 3x3 box must contain each and every digit 1-9 exactly once.

						2	1
		3		7		9	8
	2		4	8			
6				4		5	9
		5			8		
4	7		3				2
			5	1		8	
7	5		8		6		
3	1						

Have an Opinion You Would Like To Share?

Submit your perspective to
hilltopeditorials@gmail.com

Perspectives should be no less than 500 words.

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Student-run Investment Fund
 The economy is everybody's focus right now. The stock market is ever changing and most students know very little about how things work. A student-run investment fund would give interested students the chance to learn the art of investing firsthand. There is only so much to learn from games and no risk-exercises. People learn best through real-life experience.

There is currently a small investment fund within the School of Business. However, only senior finance majors are allowed to participate. Let's lobby the School of Business to open it up to everyone. Students would apply and be chosen based off their achievements, goals, and passion for the industrv. Profits would be split as student salaries as well as scholarships for needy students. Everybody wins.

Please join me on Monday, November 24th at 6:00 p n in Locke 304.

My contact information is: Charles Taylor. taylorcharle-sa@gmail'.com, 580.574.0855

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November 20th @7pm in Douglas Hall Room 116

Chicago People's Union Presents...
The Real Deal
on Wednesday, Nov. 19th at 7pm in Chemistry Auditorium

The Ladies of Alpha Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.
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Thursday November 20, 2008
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